

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13 and 14 as set forth below:

1. (cancelled)/
2. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the elevated temperature is between 300°C and 600°C.
3. and 4. (cancelled).
5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the identification marker is applied to the surface of the container in the form of a bar code.
6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that said bar code is applied annularly onto a cylindrical portion of the sample container in a manner that said bar code is readable along [the] a cylindrical axis of the sample container.
7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the identification marker is applied to the surface of the container along with numerals [and/] or letters.
8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the identification marker is applied to the surface of the container in the form of numerals [and/] or letters.

9. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the identification marker is applied to the surface of the container in the form of symbols.

10. (currently amended) A method for labeling a sample container, comprising the steps of:

[providing a container for holding a sample to be analyzed;]
elevating a temperature of the container to an elevated temperature above a sample analysis temperature, which is greater than ambient temperature; and
applying [container] an identification marker to [the] a surface of the container at the elevated temperature.

11. (original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of manufacturing a container for holding a sample to be analyzed.

12. (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim [12] 10, further comprising the step[s] of, during temperature elevation, applying [container] the identification marker to the surface of the container.

14. (currently amended) A method for labeling a sample container, comprising the steps of:

[providing a container for holding a sample to be analyzed;]
elevating a temperature of the container to an elevated temperature above a degassing temperature, which is greater than a sample analysis temperature; and
applying [container] an identification marker to the surface of the container at the elevated temperature.

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Please add new Claim 15 as set forth below:

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cmo.* 15. (new) A method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the identification marker is applied to the container by ink jet printing.
